

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00044 141447Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 IO-13 /076 W

-----141837Z 043006 /43

R 141410Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5582

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0044

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE INSTIGATION IN NYANGA RIOTS:

TENSIONS IN TOWNSHIPS REMAIN HIGH

REF: CAPE TOWN 0009

SUMMARY: TENSION REMAINS HIGH IN PENINSULA'S BLACK TOWN-SHIPS AS RESIDENTS FEAR FURTHER ATTACKS BY MIGRANT WORKERS FOLLOWING LAST MONTH'S WAVE OF VIOLENCE (REFTEL). PROMINENT CAPE CHURCH AND OTHER LEADERS CALLED ON DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER TO WARN AGAINST POLICE "INSTIGATION" WHILE POLICE TESTIMONY BEFORE CILLIE COMMISSION IMPUGNS CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE (CI) AND SOME ANGLICAN LEADERS. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING LAST MONTH'S CLASHES BETWEEN MIGRANT WORKERS AND RESIDENTS OF NYANGA TOWNSHIP WHICH CLAIMED 36 LIVES AND LEFT HUNDREDS HOMELESS, TENSIONS IN THE TOWNSHIPS CONTINUE TO RUN HIGH. PANIC SPREAD AMONG RESIDENTS IN NYANGA LAST NIGHT (JANUARY 13) AS GROUP OF MIGRANTS REPORTED VARIOUSLY TO NUMBER BETWEEN 100-300 ARMED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00044 141447Z

WITH CLUBS AND STEEL RODS GATHERED IN STREETS TO HURL IMPRECATIONS AND THREATS. POLICE REPORTEDLY ARRIVED ON SCENE SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND WORKERS DISPERSED. INDICATIVE OF DEGREE OF FEAR AND TENSION AMONG RESIDENTS, HOWEVER, IS FACT REPORTED BY CONTACTS WHO LIVE IN AREA THAT MUCH OF NYANGA TOWNSHIP REMAINED AWAKE AND ON GUARD THROUGHOUT NIGHT AND THAT MEN FROM

NEIGHBORING TOWNSHIP OF GUGULETU PATROLLED BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNSHIPS TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE ATTACK FROM SPREADING.

2. FOLLOWING RIOTING OF CHRISTMAS WEEKEND (REFTEL) ASSERTIONS BY RESIDENTS OF POLICE INSTIGATIONS OF AND SUPPORT FOR WORKERS IN THEIR ATTACKS ON RESIDENTS WERE NUMEROUS. THESE INCLUDED ALLEGATIONS THAT RIOT POLICE WERE OPENLY HANDING OUT GASOLINE CONTAINERS AND SHOWING WORKERS HOW TO MAKE PETROL BOMBS. FOLLOWING CIRCULATION OF PRINTED PAMPHLETS AMONG MIGRANT WORKERS IN LANGA TOWNSHIP WARNING THAT STUDENTS PLANNED TO ATTACK WORKERS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, A GROUP OF PROMINENT CHURCHMEN AND ACADEMICS CALLED ON BRIG. P.A. CERFF AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 31 TO INFORM HIM OF WIDESPREAD ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE INVOLVEMENT AND TO ASK HIM TO HEAD OFF ANY ATTACKS PLANNED BY MIGRANT WORKERS IN LANGA. DELEGATION INCLUDED THEO KOTZE, CAPE DIRECTOR OF CI; ANGLICAN BISHOP PATRICK MATOLENGWE AND ROBERT TOBIAS, CHAIRMAN OF INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS AND HEAD OF EXTRAMURAL STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN. BRIG. CERFF RECEIVED DELEGATION POLITELY BUT DENIED ANY POSSIBILITY POLICE INVOLVEMENT. THE RUMORED ATTACKS IN LANGA DID NOT EVENTUATE.

3. IN RECENT TESTIMONY BEFORE CILLIE COMMISSION ON CAUSES OF LAST YEAR'S UNREST, POLICE REJECTED ACCUSATIONS BY CI AND "CERTAIN SECTIONS" OF ANGLICAN CHURCH OF POLICE INVOLVEMENT IN NYANGA RIOTS AND IMPLIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00044 141447Z

IMPROPER LINKS BETWEEN THOSE MAKING THE ACCUSATIONS AND STUDENT MILITANTS ("COMRADES") WHO POLICE BLAME FOR STARTING RIOTS.

4. COMMENT: FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING VIEWS OF BOTH GROUPS CONCERNING NYANGA RIOTS BEING FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM. CONGENOFF HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH BOTH KOTZE AND MATOLENGWE AND WHILE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF POLICE ROLE NOT OF COURSE AVAILABLE THEY REMAIN CONVINCED THAT DELIBERATE USE BEING MADE OF WORKERS TO INTIMIDATE RESIDENTS AND CONVINCE THEM THAT SUPPORT OF STUDENTS ENTAILS CLEAR AND PROHIBITIVE RISKS. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, SAME ACCUSATIONS WERE MADE INVOLVING EARLIER CLASHES BETWEEN MIGRANT ZULU WORKERS AND RESIDENTS IN SOWETO, CI OFFICIALS VIEW POLICE TESTIMONY BEFORE CILLIE COMMISSION AS ONE MORE EFFORT TO "BUILD A CASE" AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION TO JUSTIFY FUTURE BANNING OR OTHER PUNITIVE ACTION.

WHITE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIGRATORY WORKERS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770015-0081
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770152/aaaabtld.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7f704da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 9
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3600048
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE INSTIGATION IN NYANGA RIOTS: TENSIONS IN TOWNSHIPS REMAIN HIGH
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7f704da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009